

never be in favor of a voucher system. But if we can provide indirect support to those children that attend those schools, I think we're doing a service not just to the private schools, but all the citizens of our state. Quality education for all of our young people ought to be our goal and not a concern over whether dollars go to private or public schools. I'm pleased that the court came down with its ruling. I'm pleased that Senator Hall was successful initially into getting his recommendation into the budget and I hope it stays there. I plan on voting to support the override.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Labeledz, followed by Senator Hall.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Abboud mentioned the fact that we set our priorities and with the list of overrides that I have and looked over and studied very hard last night, I did list this one as my top priority, the textbook situation. I think if we override the veto we will be showing the people of the State of Nebraska that send their children to a private school that we appreciate what they're doing, the tuition that they have to pay. We're now in competition with public school teacher salary because there is no doubt in my mind that LB 89 will pass and it's very difficult to find the money to pay the teachers' salaries that are comparable to our public school system. And I sometimes wonder what would happen if we decided to close the private schools within a 30-day period and send our children to the public schools. And we all complain about our property tax and how extremely high it is, but we never stop to think that it would be much higher because we would have to support thousands and thousands of other children going to the public schools. The fact that it is only 150,000, and I'm very strong also on the tuition tax credit. Senator Hall and I both introduced a bill this year for a tuition tax credit. We both know that that's going to have a very difficult time ever passing in this Legislature. This is such a very small thing to ask for, for the private schools. We're talking about books and certainly this Legislature and this state can afford in this budget \$150,000 for textbooks for the private schools. I urge the override on LB 813 for the 150,000 and I would...do I have any more time, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT: Yes, you have two and a half minutes.

SENATOR LABEDZ: I would relinquish the rest of my time to